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8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
9 AT SEATTLE

10 EDEN YOHANES et al.,

11 Plaintiffs,

12 v.

13 JAMES RIVER INSURANCE  
14 COMPANY,

15 Defendant.  
16

CASE NO. C20-101 MJP

ORDER DENYING MOTION TO  
BIFURCATE

17 This matter comes before the Court on Defendant's Motion to Bifurcate and Stay  
18 Discovery (Dkt. No. 8). Having reviewed the Motion, the Response (Dkt. No. 11), and the  
19 Reply (Dkt. No. 13), the Court DENIES the Motion.

20 The Court will not bifurcate the contract claim from the extra-contractual claims nor stay  
21 discovery at this stage of the case. The Parties are encouraged to file their dispositive motions in  
22 phases—with dispositive motions on the contract claim filed first—and to suggest a timeline for  
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1 staging these motions to the Court. The Defendant may move for bifurcation again after motion  
2 practice is complete.

3 The Court also DENIES Defendant's Motion to Strike Plaintiffs' Response. (Dkt. NO.  
4 13 at 2-3.) Defendant argues that the Plaintiffs' Response was untimely under the Local Rules,  
5 contending that Defendant was prejudiced "because it had no time to consider the response and  
6 prepare a timely reply by the noted hearing date." (Dkt. No. 13 at 3.) While the Court finds that  
7 the Plaintiffs' Response was untimely under the Local Rules, Defendant submitted a ten-page  
8 Reply addressing the Plaintiffs' arguments (Dkt. No. 13), and the Court therefore finds  
9 Defendant's claims of prejudice unconvincing.

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11 The clerk is ordered to provide copies of this order to all counsel.

12 Dated March 27, 2020.

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15 Marsha J. Pechman  
16 United States District Judge  
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